

STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the
year ended 31st December, 1950.

June, 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of the Stevenage
Urban District Council.I beg to present the above report prepared in accordance with the directions of
Ministry of Health Circular 112/50.SECTION A.LOCAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres	...	...	...	4,576
Residential Population - Mid. 1949 - (Registrar General's Estimate)	...	...	...	6,477
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	2,028
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£41,979
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£166.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the
Year 1950.

	Totals	M.	F.	Stevenage U.D. Local Rate.	Comparable Rate for England & Wales.
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u> legitimate	90	54	36		
illegitimate	1	-	1		
all	91	54	37		
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				14.0	15.8
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u> legitimate	1	1	-		
illegitimate	-	-	-		
all	1	1	-		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births				11	23
<u>DEATHS</u>	68	43	25		
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				10.5	11.6
<u>DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.</u>					
All infants per 1,000 live births (No infants deaths under one year were recorded).				-	30

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	...	-
Deaths from Cancer	...	10
Deaths from Measles	...	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough.	...	-
Deaths from other infective and parasitic diseases		-

COMMENT ON VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated local population for mid 1950 shows a small reduction.

For the year 1950 the local death rate (10.5) was markedly lower than 1949(13.1) comparing favourably with the rate for England and Wales and the local average for the previous 10 years. The chief causes of death were:- Heart and other Circulatory Diseases 26, Vaccular Lesions of Nervous System 14, and Cancer (all sites) 10. Again no local death is recorded from Motor Vehicle Accidents.

For the first time for many years not a single death is recorded in children under one year and the stillbirth rate (total - 1) is also very favourable.

At 14.0 the local birth rate shows a considerable fall from the high 1949 figure (16.9) and is this year below the comparable figure for England and Wales (15.8).

The following table shows the main local vital statistics over the ten years 1941-50:-

	<u>Birth Rate.</u>	<u>Death Rate.</u>	<u>Inf.Mort.Rate.</u>
1950	14.0	10.5	-
1949	16.9	13.1	18
1948	16.2	10.4	29
1947	18.5	12.1	26
1946	16.9	12.7	9
1945	14.5	10.9	22
1944	16.8	12.1	54
1943	15.9	12.6	39
1942	11.1	9.9	55
1941	11.8	11.4	23

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

No important change occurred during the year.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

The Town is supplied by 2 water pumping plants, both electrically operated, from which a constant and normal supply of water is distributed by main to 1984 houses (approximate population 6342), and by standpipes to 4 houses (approximate population 10), while 40 houses (approximate population 125) are supplied by private wells.

84 samples of water taken by your sanitary inspector were submitted to the Luton Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and 85 samples by Messrs. Rideal, Rideal & Sciver, London for bacteriological examination.

Summary of samples submitted for bacteriological examination to the Luton Public Health Laboratory.

<u>Description.</u>	<u>No. of samples.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Town Supply: Raw Water	56	56	-
Town Supply: Chlorinated Water	12	12	-
Private Wells	-	-	-

Summary of samples taken for bacteriological examination by Messrs. Rideal, Rideal & Sciver, London, on behalf of the Stevenage Development Corporation.

<u>Description.</u>	<u>No. of samples.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Town Supply: Raw Water	30	23	7
Chlorinated Water	55	41	14

The unsatisfactory samples of chlorinated water are attributed to a period when replacements and repairs of defective mains were taking place.

General Remarks. The geological position of Stevenage lies on the edge of a basin and therefore the water supply will always be liable to surface contamination. During recent years the water supply has intermittently been contaminated, and to counteract this, a plant was installed in April (1949) for the water to be super-chlorinated at the inlet to the reservoir with de-chlorination at the outlet.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of inspections for all purposes 993, divided as follows:-

Defects under the Housing Acts	356
Defects under the Factories Act	26
Prevention of Infectious Diseases including disinfection & disinfestation	15
Sanitary conditions of school, public halls and cinemas	10
Inspections under the Milk & Dairies Order (including farms).	67
Inspection of slaughterhouses, butchers' shops, vans and food stores.	109
Meat and Food inspections.	6
Miscellaneous food inspections	20
Prevention of nuisances	14
Inspection of drainage etc.	32
Inspection of the Town's water supply and water samples.	84
Inspection re Insect infestation	10
Inspection under the Food and Drugs Act (i) Ice Cream	69
(ii) Restaurant Kitchens	40
(iii) Preparation Rooms	32
Inspections re smoke observations	10
Inspections re Shops Act	6
Inspections re Moveable Dwellings	60

Miscellaneous.

Inspections re storage of petroleum	23
Inspections re living and social conditions of applicants for council houses	2
Inspections re mortuary	2

Sewage and Sewage Disposal.

The Town is provided with a foul sewer 24" diameter leading to bacterial treatment at the Sewage Disposal Works and a 36" surface water sewer discharging into a water-course, both of which are satisfactory.

Refuse Collection and Disposal of Salvage.

House refuse collection, the disposal of same and the cleansing of the Town is supervised and carried out by the Surveyor. The refuse is disposed of by semi-controlled tipping.

During the year 23 tons of materials were salvaged which realised £122.

Smoke Observations.

6 smoke observations were taken and during each period no nuisances occurred.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

17 premises are licensed for petroleum, carbide of calcium etc. and the regulations are satisfactorily complied with.

SECTION D.

Housing.

Routine house-to-house inspections were carried out at 176 houses, viz. 116 private and 60 Council houses.

During the year 43 houses were erected, viz:- 34 by the Stevenage Urban District Council, 4 by the Stevenage Development Corporation and 5 by private enterprise.

Overcrowding Act, 1936.

During the year no houses were found overcrowded.

Sanitary improvements were undertaken in existing dwelling houses, viz:-

Premises re-drained	5
Sanitary improvements including drainage	106
Other work for the abatement of nuisances	45

4 formal notices were served and the rest of the work was carried out by persuasive methods.

Verminous Premises.

During the year no complaints were received.

SECTION E.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR, 1950 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF STEVENAGE, IN THE COUNTY OF HERTFORD.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of Inspections.	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	18	7	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	47	30	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	2	6	-	-
TOTAL	67	43	-	-

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	1	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	3	3	-	-	-
TOTAL	9	6	-	8	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT.
OUTWORK.

Number of Outworkers 1. i.e Wearing apparel.

(Sections 110 & 111)

Inspection and Supervision of Food etc.

MILK.

There are only 7 registered producers of milk in the district from which one is for the sale of Tuberculin Tested milk and from the other 6 the milk is collected and pasteurised before distribution.

In addition there are 3 registered retailers from whom milk is produced outside the Stevenage district, 1 being licensed for the sale of Tuberculin Tested milk and 2 for Tuberculin Tested milk and Pasteurised milk.

64 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination which gave the following results:-

<u>Description.</u>	<u>No. of samples.</u>	<u>Passed.</u>	<u>Failed.</u>
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	1	1	-
Tuberculin Tested Accredited	32	18	14
Pasteurised	7	6	1
Ungraded	20	15	5
	4	2	2

Note. The considerable proportion of samples of Tuberculin Tested milk from one source which failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test (for keeping qualities) were the subject of representations through the main licensing authority (a nearby sanitary district) in the later months of the year.

ICE-CREAM.

At present there are no manufacturers of ice-cream in Stevenage.

69 samples of ice-cream were taken for bacteriological examination from retailers, restaurants etc. and the following summary shows the provisional grading:-

	<u>No. of samples.</u>	<u>Grade 1.</u>	<u>Grade 2.</u>	<u>Grade 3.</u>	<u>Grade 4.</u>
1950	69	42 (60.87%)	17 (24.63%)	6 (8.69%)	4 (5.79%)
1949	43	13 (30.23%)	12 (27.90%)	8 (18.60%)	10 (23.25%)
1948	25	3 (12%)	12 (48%)	2 (8%)	8 (32%)

Comparing the samples with previous years the average percentages are exceedingly good.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are 4 licensed private slaughterhouses (including one knackers' slaughterhouse) in the District which are kept up to a fair standard. Only occasional slaughterings licensed by the Local Food Officer are carried out, amounting in all to 8 pigs of which the carcasses of 6 were inspected.

Foods surrendered as unfit for human consumption in shops, stores, etc. have to be certified before replacements can be made. During the year the following amount of food was condemned as unsound and unfit:-

Meat	440 lbs
Ham	20 "
Fish	14 "
Tinned Food	88 "
Sweets	56 "

Bakehouses, restaurant kitchens, preparation rooms, manufacturers of preserved food and tradesmens vans etc. are inspected with a view to keeping up a good standard of cleanliness.

FOOD POISONING.

There was no record, either formal or informal, of any such occurrence in your district during the year.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Total notifications of infectious disease (after correction) were as follows:- Measles 137, Scarlet Fever 3, Whooping Cough 3 and Acute Poliomyelitis 1.

The measles cases were almost confined to a large outbreak in the 3rd quarter of the year while the very small figures for whooping cough and scarlet fever were sporadic in distribution.

The single case of acute poliomyelitis occurred in a child, the illness having been followed by considerable residual paralysis.

For another year no case of diphtheria was confirmed in the district. Despite its continued absence the offer of protection to infants by immunisation continues to be accepted by a large majority of parents.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and deaths during the year.

Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	4	1	1	1	1	-	-	-

While the numbers of new notifications are about equal to 1949 the total deaths from tuberculosis show a reduction on that year from 3 to 1.

In conclusion, I would acknowledge having received every help from your chief officers and particularly would I acknowledge the invaluable help received from your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H.Foden, who has been responsible for compiling the Sanitary sections of this report.

Your obedient Servant,

VICTOR R.WALKER,

District Medical Officer of Health.